Herkimer County Newsletter
October, November, December 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Visits</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislature Meeting Dates/Info</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet the Dept. Head</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop DWI</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil &amp; Water</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCCC</td>
<td>4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA'/Working Solutions</td>
<td>6,7, 8,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell Cooperative Ext.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Elections</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herkimer Originals Event</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Herkimer County
Virtual Senior Citizen’s Picnic
Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

FOR: Herkimer County, 60+ individuals

TO SIGN UP: Call Michele @ 315-867-1152 by October 13th, 2021.

HOW IT WORKS: A free barbecue meal. The meals will be distributed at a location in Herkimer and one in Old Forge. We will be providing delivery for homebound clients who are unable to pick up their meal at one of the pick-up locations.

We will be holding a Facebook Live event including the National Anthem and a presenting of the Senior Picnic Proclamation from the Herkimer County Legislature.

PRIZES: Information will be included at the time the meal is picked up on prizes. Everyone who signs up to receive a meal will be assigned a number for an opportunity to win a gift card to a local business.

DONATIONS: We are asking community members and organizations to donate gift certificates for local businesses that will be given as prizes for the senior picnic. We ask that the gift certificates be in $10 increments. You are welcome to purchase several gift certificates to support your favorite local business. If any community member or organization would like to donate a gift certificate for a local business you can mail them to: Herkimer County Sheriff’s Dept. at 320 N Main Street Suite 2900 Herkimer, NY 13350 or you can contact the Sheriff's Dept. with any questions at 315-867-1168.

Herkimer County is actively seeking candidates to fill vacancies in various departments. Please check out www.herkimercounty.org for civil service exams and job postings.

In an effort to increase recruitment please share these vacancies and exam information with individuals that may be interested.
**Upcoming 2021 Legislature Meeting Dates:**

- October 6—2:00 PM
- October 27—7:00 PM
- November 17—7:00 PM
- December 15—7:00 PM

All meetings are held in the Legislature Chambers
109 Mary Street
Herkimer, NY 13350
Check our website for Meeting minutes at www.herkimercounty.org

**Civil Service Exams:**

- November 6
- December 11

Please visit www.herkimercounty.org and click on “Civil Service Exams” for more information!

**Legal Holidays, All Herkimer County Offices will be closed:**

- Oct. 11—Columbus Day
- Nov. 2—Election Day
- Nov. 11—Veterans’ Day
- Nov. 25—Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 26—Day After Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24—Christmas Day (observed)
- Dec. 31—New Year’s Day (observed)

*Highway and Deputy Sherriff’s Association Employees excluded

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**Herkimer County Legislature Meetings:**

Herkimer County is pleased to announce the reappointment of Tim Seymour as Commissioner of the Herkimer County Department of Social Services. Tim was reappointed for a term of 5 years at the Herkimer County Legislature meeting on August 11, 2021.

The Commissioner can be reached at 315-867-1291.

**From Herkimer County STOP DWI:**

**DID YOU KNOW??**

**SCHOOL HAS RESUMED; SCHOOL SPEED LIMITS ARE IN EFFECT**

School has begun this year with in-class learning after a year of hybrid learning. Thus, school speed limits are in effect on school days. Some of our school speed zones are controlled by flashing beacons that mandate the school speed limit “WHEN FLASHING” rather than specific times. Whenever the beacons are flashing, the school speed limit is in effect, even in evenings for school events. Furthermore, speeding fines are doubled if convicted of violating a school speed limit.

Another issue to be aware of as school resumes this fall is that in many schools, start times may be staggered to allow for fewer students on school buses and in classrooms. Thus, students may be going to school at different times and the same for going home after school. Drivers are likely to see students earlier in the morning and later in the afternoon than they may be used to.

Drivers need to be aware of stopped school buses and obey the NO PASSING A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS WHEN LIGHTS ARE FLASHING law. Incredible as it may seem, it is estimated that 50,000 motorists illegally pass a stopped school bus in New York State EVERY SCHOOL DAY. If you are convicted of passing a stopped school bus, five violation points are assigned to your driving record by NYS DMV. As schools and school buses resume after summer vacation, be extra careful in the vicinity of schools and be aware of the potential for stopped school buses anywhere. For those parents that drive their student to school be aware that it is also illegal to pass a stopped school bus with red lights flashing on school property.

Lastly, many of our schools have crossing guards at busy intersections in the vicinity of schools. When they step out into the street with their STOP sign, drivers need to obey them. It may cost you a few extra seconds on your journey but what’s a few seconds compared to the consequences of hitting a student? Be alert. No one wants to injure a child.

This article was submitted by the Herkimer County STOP-DWI Office. This article is a one in a series of articles developed and published by the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board and is being reprinted with their permission.

**STOP DWI New York**

**Mental Health Visits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Health Clinic Visits</th>
<th>Mental Health Jail Visits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun. – 809 (30% in person and 70% telehealth)</td>
<td>Jun. – 54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. – 613 (55% in person and 45% telehealth)</td>
<td>Jul. – 46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. – 680 (60% in person and 40% telehealth)</td>
<td>Aug. – 36</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**County Office Building**

Winter Hours
8:00AM–5:00PM
September 8, 2021 to May 27, 2022
FROM SOIL & WATER:

The District was awarded funds for Agricultural Non-Point Source and Abatement Control Program Round 24 for the installation of a new concrete waste storage and transfer components. The project is for a 125 cow dairy farm in the Town of Stark. The new storage would increase the farms storage from 2 months of storage to 8 months of storage while protecting valuable ground and surface water resources. The new storage would hold just over one million gallons including manure, milk house waste, and precipitation. The storage is nearing completion and the farm has started to utilize the storage.

The preexisting storage that no longer meets standards and specifications.

The walls were poured and removed to allowed to cure before backfilling could start.

The farm had started to store manure and milk house waste in the storage while waiting for the project to be finished.

Japanese Knotweed Project Update

This marks the 3rd year of treating several high priority infested sites for the Herkimer County Japanese Knotweed Project. The project began in 2016 as a whole county inventory project, covering every road in Herkimer County. We have investigated and inventoried more than 1,000 sites infested with Japanese Knotweed along roadsides, streams and ditches. Sites are prioritized based on water quality concerns with District Board approval and landowner permissions before treating any prioritized sites. We can treat a limited number of sites each year, so we are not taking on new sites.

The treatment season is typically between mid-August and the end of October while the knotweed plants are flowering, until the first major frost event. Eradication at a single site infestation takes several years. Individual sites take several hours for our staff to treat, as each and every stalk is treated by stem injection. This year, district staff became fully certified pesticide applicators under the district’s agency registration with the NYS DEC, an upgrade from pesticide technician status.

Below are before treatment (2019) and after two treatments (2021) photos of a site located along a blue line trout stream C(TS) off of Beecher Rd in the town of Russia.

By the end of the 2021 treatment season, our staff plans to have treated in five towns. Our ultimate goal is to eradicate all high priority sites within the county, thus promoting native species growth. For more information, please call our office at 315-866-2520 ext. 5 or email us at Katherine.whitcomb@ny.nacdnet.net.
Herkimer College awarded

Prestigious National Science Foundation grant

Herkimer County Community College has been awarded a prestigious grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to better serve underrepresented minority students pursuing a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree. The grant was awarded through the NSF’s Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program and is part of an overarching goal to diversify the STEM workforce. The College’s allotment under the nearly $2 million grant is $242,381 over a five-year period.

The College was awarded these funds in partnership with six other regional colleges—Ithaca College, Utica College, State University of New York at Cortland, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and Tompkins Cortland Community College—a coalition known as the Central New York LSAMP Alliance (CNYLA).

Thanks to the CNYLA, LSAMP scholars will have a specialized transfer path to one of the participating four-year schools, in addition to the more than 150 articulation agreements Herkimer College already provides. “With the LSAMP scholars cohort, we can take a student all the way from their associate degree to a doctorate in STEM,” said Dr. Jennifer Adjodha-Evans, Herkimer College’s LSAMP campus facilitator. She also serves as one of only three principal investigators for the CNYLA and is an alumna of an LSAMP “Bridges to Doctorate” program.

Herkimer College LSAMP scholars will develop their research skills by designing, conducting, and reporting on their own original undergraduate research projects, and will participate in various STEM career awareness and readiness programs. There will also be a mentorship component and specialized transfer support to help LSAMP scholars move on to bachelor’s and eventually graduate-level STEM degree programs.

For more information about Herkimer College’s STEM program and to request information on the LSAMP scholars program, go to herkimer.edu/stem.

Herkimer College recognizes longtime employees with Service Awards

Herkimer County Community College has recognized 13 employees for milestone anniversaries by awarding Service Awards at the opening meeting of the academic year. Provost Michael Oriolo and Margaret Schumacher, an office assistant in the Athletics Office, received special recognition for their 40-year careers with Herkimer College.

The full list of 2021 Service Award recipients is as follows:

10 Years
- Cara Boepple, Technical Assistant, Internet Academy
- Stephanie Conley, Librarian
- Richard Dawkins, Assistant Director, Athletics
- Daniel Elthorp, Campus Peace Officer
- Dr. Nicole McDaniels, Associate Professor, Biology
- Rene Roth, Senior Account Clerk Typist, Bursar Office

20 Years
- Wendy Marchese, Director of Counseling Services
- Erin Bailey, Administrative Assistant to the Provost
- Amy Dommer, Instructor, Physical Education
- Jennifer Herzog, Associate Professor, Biology
- Stacie Shepardson, Senior Accountant, Business Office

40 Years
- Michael Oriolo, Provost
- Margaret Schumacher, Office Assistant II, Athletics

Photo: From left, Office Assistant Margaret Schumacher, President Cathleen McColgin, and Provost Michael Oriolo pose for a photo at Herkimer College’s All-Campus Meeting August 30, where they and others were presented with service awards.
Herkimer College welcomes students back to campus

Herkimer County Community College welcomed nearly 800 students to campus for the fall semester. An additional 650 students are enrolled entirely online through the College’s Internet Academy. Of the 800 on-campus students, just over 300 are living in on-campus housing. We are committed to providing a safe campus environment for all students, employees, and visitors. In accordance with the State University of New York policy, proof of full vaccination is required for all students enrolled in on-campus classes or planning to be on campus for any reason, with some approved medical and religious exemptions. Throughout the semester, all residential students, commuter students who are unvaccinated, and unvaccinated employees are required to participate in regular COVID surveillance testing. The College also currently has a mask mandate in place for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, and as recommendations from federal, state, and local entities change, we will adjust our health and safety protocols accordingly. For more details and updates, please refer to Herkimer College’s COVID-19 Planning and Response website.

Herkimer College announces new mission, vision statements as first step in developing a new strategic plan

The Herkimer County Community College Board of Trustees has approved new mission and vision statements for the College, as part of a strategic planning process.

Mission Statement: Herkimer College’s mission is to provide dynamic educational programs and services in an inclusive, engaging community where all learners have the opportunity to grow and succeed.

Vision Statement: Herkimer College will be the college of choice, delivering an innovative, transformative student experience inspired by a new generation.

The new mission and vision statements were developed through a collaborative, inclusive process that began in January 2021. An Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Planning Committee was responsible for creating the new statements, with input from faculty, staff, and students. With new mission and vision statements in place, the IE Planning Committee will begin working on the strategic plan goals, objectives and action items, with input from various stakeholder groups.

“The revised mission and vision statements provide critical guiding principles for our institutional planning,” said President Cathleen McColgin. “Our vision for Herkimer College is progressive, and I believe it provides us with the inspiration and adaptability for an exciting future.”
On August 2nd, at a luncheon held at Hart’s Hill, Legislative Chairman Vincent J. Bono recognized Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency as they celebrated 55 years of helping families in Oneida and Herkimer Counties cross the bridge out of poverty.

MCVAA has been the frontline resource by providing direct services and support for education, employment and family support services. They connect families living in poverty with Early Head Start, Head Start, and Universal Pre-K, utility assistance, tax preparation; Housing Assistance, Senior Services, Weatherization, Foster Grandparents and Youth Services. These services help community members see a clear path to bettering their situation.

MVCAA is the pro-active voice in the community for those who don’t often have the capacity to speak for themselves. Early childhood education, youth programming, safe housing programs, family development, and advocacy are the cornerstones of MVCAA. A grassroots organization with a national voice, MVCAA offers innovative, as well as, tried-and-true opportunities that put all families in a position to better themselves.
EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING CONT’D:

The Herkimer County College Corps Internship Program is targeted at those residents who will be entering their junior or senior year in college. It is a 200 hour experience designed to closely correlate with the student’s current field of study. It is a way that young people who have left the area to go to college can realize that there are good employment opportunities in their career choice right where they grew up!

This year, a young man named Beny Huckaby was placed in an internship with the Town of Webb Tourism Center. Beny attends Vassar College enrolled as a Science, Technology and Society Major with a Minor in Film and is scheduled to graduate in 2023.

According to Mike Farmer, Town of Webb Tourism’s Publicity Director, the organization “could not have been happier or more impressed with Beny’s intelligence, work ethic, productivity or quality of work…” Farmer adds that their experience with Beny “capsulates what we have been looking for, not only as an intern, but as an employee…” Beny was asked to develop a series of short films showcasing the distinct personalities of the different hamlets in the Town of Webb. These include Old Forge, Thendara, Eagle Bay, Big Moose, Stillwater and Beaver River.

Kurt Gardner, a member of the Town of Webb Town Council and owner of the Kurt Gardner Photography Gallery in Old Forge, worked closely with Beny as well. He had this to say, “Beny was an amazing intern… He did such an awesome job of promoting our MTB trails and creating content for our new Ride Old Forge Facebook and Instagram page… The film and photo back ground mixed with his love for the outdoor sports makes Beny a perfect match for us. We can’t thank Herkimer County enough for helping make this happen. Sure hope we can get him back again next year!”

Above is a picture taken by Beny as he live streamed this year’s 4th of July festivities in the Town of Webb. Perhaps the best story relating to that is captured in his own words in an email he sent to his supervisors:

“During the 4th of July fireworks show while shooting pictures from a balcony at Pine Knoll… I was simultaneously live-streaming a video of the fireworks to the Old Forge Visitors Facebook account. Amidst the beauty of a fading sunset and the first 4th celebration since pre-covid, I looked down at the comments section to see someone had left a note of appreciation in the comments. The woman who had commented was at home sick and feeling lonely because they could not attend the fireworks as they had for years prior; they sincerely thanked us for streaming the event and bringing some joy to their day. The feeling that was brought on by the combination happenings was heavy. A town seeing the light on the other side of COVID 19, the beautiful scenery and fading sunset, the fireworks going off loud and proud above the town, while at the same time helping those less fortunate. As I stood there, I realized that I was doing it for my “job”, it was a really special and rewarding moment for me. I was really grateful to be in that position that night, and those are pictures and a moment that I’ll never forget.”

Here are some additional photos capturing Beny’s experience:

He created this new logo
These show Beny hard at work on the trails!
Herkimer Working Solutions and Herkimer College Partner to Host an In Person Job Fair

After having to cancel twice due to rain, we were able to finally host a successful job fair outdoors at the beautiful Wehrum Stadium area of Herkimer College. Employers included Giotto Enterprises, RCIL, Feldmeier, Delorio’s, Herkimer County Civil Service, Herkimer County 9-1-1 Center, Valley Health Services, Tractor Supply Distribution Center, The Grand, International Paper, Twin Rivers, Staffworks, ELG Utica Alloys, Durham Bus Service, Gehring Tricot, Helmont Mills, Family Dollar Distribution Center, Mohawk Valley Staffing, American Dining Creations, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, and NYS DOT.

It was a beautiful but scorching hot 95 degrees, but 65 job seekers attended and made valuable connections with the employers. Mark Cushman of Giotto Enterprises said “You (Herkimer Working Solutions) and the folks at HCCC pulled off an excellent event….one that resulted in our getting some 1/2 dozen qualified candidates. As far as I’m concerned, you clearly demonstrated that you guys know what you’re doing! We’ll take your lead…please let me know when the next event will take place: we’re in!!!”

Here are some pics from the event!
Workforce Development Professionals Month was created in 2005 by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) to raise awareness about the importance of our industry to a growing national economy. Originally celebrated in May, NAWDP moved the designation to September in 2012. The U.S. Senate recently passed a resolution naming September 2021 Workforce Development Month. Read the full resolution here.

The Herkimer Working Solutions Career Center is part of the Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Herkimer, Madison & Oneida Counties. Other career centers in our WDB include the Utica, Rome and Wampsville locations.

Here are some interesting facts about Workforce Development:

- In Herkimer, we serve an average of about 1,000 customers in a “normal” year
- Each customer can access a wide variety of repeat services depending on their needs
- Even throughout the pandemic time frame of March 2020-March of 2021, we still served over 500 individuals including those affected by the mass layoff at Remington Arms
- In the US, 1 out of every 12 people “touches” the workforce development system per year
- Urge your Members of Congress to support Workforce Development Funding

More about the HMO Workforce Development Board can be found at: https://www.working-solutions.org/
A new and very destructive insect pest is heading towards Herkimer County. The spotted lanternfly, native to China and Southeast Asia was discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. Since then it has been expanding its range and is a threat to agriculture and home gardens throughout the United States. Currently it is well established in Eastern Pennsylvania and many counties in New York. Individual specimens have been found in Herkimer County, but not breeding colonies of the insect. The spotted lanternfly is a prolific breeder with a taste for the sap of some of our most valuable trees and vines. Amongst the many plants effected are: grapevines, apple, maple and black walnut trees, among many others. The lanternflies also exude honeydew a sticky substance that attracts bees, wasps and other insects as well as promoting the growth of mold and mildew on the trees.

You can spot adult lanternflies very easily. They are strikingly colorful with red hind wings, black spots and a yellow abdomen with black bands. Once established in an area you will see masses of them on tree trunks and vines. Their preferred host are Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and grape vines, but will attach themselves to many other plants. Unfortunately, swarms of the insects will create unsightly messes and interfere with the enjoyment of parks and backyards as well as hurting the income of farmers.

To help combat this pest there are several things that you can do. First of keep an eye out for them and take a picture of the insect and, if possible, include something in the photo like a coin or a ruler for size reference. Collect it in a bag if you can and freeze it or in a jar with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. Note the location by street address or zip code or GPS data and send the information to: and reporting sightings to: spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov

At this time, Cornell is a leading center for research into how to stop the lanternfly before it becomes established and hurts the apples, hops and grapes that the insect attacks. Recently, university researchers discovered two native fungal pathogens that kill lanternflies and are currently working on methods to use them as a natural control. Until then, please report any sightings and kill individual insects when you see them.

For more information go to: https://nysipm.cornell.edu/environment/invasive-species-exotic-pests/spotted-lanternfly/spotted-lanternfly-ipm/ or call Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County at 315-866-7920.
FROM HERKIMER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH:

Herkimer County Public Health
301 N. Washington St.
Herkimer N. Y. 13350
Phone (315) 867-1176  Fax (315) 867-1612

2021 Rabies Vaccination Schedule

All cats, dogs and ferrets three months or older must be vaccinated even if they stay indoors
Every dog and cat needs two rabies vaccinations one year apart then one every three years
Bring proof of the pet’s vaccination history to receive a three year certificate
Ferrets must be vaccinated every year
Dogs should be on a leash, cats and ferrets should be in a carrier or pillowcase
NO EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN, Please help to move the clinic along, Thank you.
Owners are responsible to clean up after their animals, supplies are provided.
A $5.00 donation per pet is suggested to defray costs, Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Day/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 7th, Thursday</td>
<td>Dolgeville Fire Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30-7:00 pm</td>
<td>20 South Helmer Ave., Dolgeville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6th, Saturday</td>
<td>East Herkimer Fire Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-12:00</td>
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FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS:

POLL WORKERS NEEDED
The Herkimer County Board of Elections is looking for paid poll site workers for multiple positions. All registered voters are eligible. Poll sites are open from 6:00 am until 9:00 pm. Paid training is required.

If interested please contact the Board of Elections at 315.867.1102 or hcboe@herkimercounty.org.

General Elections: November 2, 2021: 6am – 9pm

Early Voting for the General Election: Blessed Sacrament Church, 71 East Main Street, Mohawk, NY 13407

The dates and times for Early Voting are as follows:

- Saturday October 23rd 9am-2pm
- Sunday October 24th 11am-4pm
- Monday October 25th 9am-5pm
- Tuesday October 26th 12pm-8pm
- Wednesday October 27th 12pm-8pm
- Thursday October 28th 9am-5pm
- Friday October 29th 9am-5pm
- Saturday October 30th 9am-2pm
- Sunday October 31st 11am-4pm

If a Voter votes during the Early Voting period listed above they are not eligible to vote on Election Day at their respective Poll Site.

All Registered Voters in Within Herkimer County are eligible to vote at this site during the designated hours.

This Poll Site is accessible to voters with physical disabilities.

If you have any questions please contact our office at 315-867-1102 or hcboe@herkimercounty.org.
The Herkimer County Highway Department recently completed two roadway rehabilitation projects that run through the Towns of Norway, Ohio and Russia in Northern Herkimer County. The roads are Black Creek Road, CR147 and Fisher Road, CR112 and CR73. These county roadways were originally constructed of an oil and stone surface that was 18’ wide with gravel shoulders. The rehabilitated roadways are 24’ wide with full width asphalt pavement surface. Warm Mix technology was used to produce the asphalt courses used for these projects. This process allows the asphalt temperature to be reduced approximately 50 degrees to 70 degrees Fahrenheit below those of hot mix asphalt which has obvious benefits of cutting fuel consumption and greenhouse gases. Extensive tree clearing was completed by county forces last fall. The construction efforts were completed by private companies based on competitive bidding requirements.

Herkimer County Highway Department Welcomes Assistant Civil Engineer – Nicholas Starrantino

Mr. Nicholas Starrantino has joined the Herkimer County Highway Department Team as Assistant Civil Engineer. Nick will be responsible for assisting the Deputy Superintendent and Senior Civil Engineer with project design, preparation of plans and specifications for highway and bridge construction projects, field inspecting and writing reports on construction and maintenance projects. He is originally from Long Island, NY and recently moved to Mohawk, NY after graduating from SUNY Canton with a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering Technology in 2019. Before working for Herkimer County Highway Department, Nick worked for NYS Department of Transportation as a Transportation Construction Inspector, as a Bartender for the West Hampton Country Club and as a Pyro-Technician for Fireworks by Grucci. His hobbies are riding dirt bikes, being outdoors and helping his family on the farm. If you see Nick, please welcome him to our Herkimer County Family!
The Herkimer Originals are a minor league basketball team with the ABA (American Basketball Association). We are called the Herkimer OGs because the Herkimer YMCA and Lambert Will are credited with having the first basketball game using a rim and net.

Coaches: Jeff Litz/Chris Wittman
 Owners: Brion Carrol, Scott Flansburg, Alice Cooper
 Basketball Operations Manager: Nick Laino

Players: Matthew Baldwin, Sean Burton, David Golembiowski, Ryan Schamdel, Joe Sullivan, Reggie German, Ivon Evans, Nates Palmer, Tray Doyen, Nate Krimsky, Matt Welch, Pete Clark, Jerrel Hunter, Cody Passalacqua, Justin Mayers, Stephen Babiarz